

Three Count[®]

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Hogan's image knocked; Graham, Shultz appear on Inside Edition

In a story whose ramifications are yet to be fully felt, accusations of anabolic steroid use by current World Wrestling Federation champion Hulk Hogan were leveled Jan. 3 by two former WWF wrestlers on *Inside Edition*.

"Superstar" Billy Graham and "Dr. D" David Shultz both said they have injected Hogan with steroids, with Graham claiming Hogan's use dates back to 1979. Shultz, who is best known for slapping television reporter John Stossel on an episode of *20/20* in 1985, said he used to give Hogan living quarters in exchange for the muscle-enhancing drug.

The show, which was heavily hyped on television commercials throughout the preceding week, said the WWF and Hogan denied comment. The WWF would not comment to *The Miami Herald*, and the promotion said Hogan was not allowed to speak to the newspaper. A story by Phil Mushnick is slated to appear in the Jan. 9 issue of the *New York Post* that discusses many of the stronger comments Shultz and Graham made that did not air on *Inside Edition*, including Shultz claiming to have injected Hogan "hundreds of times in the triceps and buttocks." Mushnick reportedly takes Hasbro, one of the toy companies that manufactures Hogan goods, to task for not yanking their endorsement of Hogan products.

Hogan was first publicly accused of steroid use last June at the trial of Dr. George T. Zahorian, a Pennsylvania osteopath convicted on eight counts of illegally distributing anabolic steroids to pro wrestlers. Hogan's name was on a subpoenaed list of those receiving Federal Express packages from Zahorian from 1985-90, with Hogan receiving five shipments from Zahorian. The contents of the package were unknown, and Hogan was not called upon to testify at the Zahorian because his subpoena was quashed by a federal judge. In testimony, Zahorian said Hogan was a heavy steroid user between 1984-89, but stopped using the drug because of Zahorian's help. Zahorian was sentenced Dec. 27 to three years in prison, two years probation, a \$12,700 fine and forfeiture of half of his \$3.7 million office/condominium.

The piece, which aired for about seven minutes and was previewed in the Jan. 3 issue of *The Miami*

Inside...

Jim Herd resigns ... Page 5

Spotlight on: David Shultz ... Page 2

Spotlight on: Billy Graham ... Page 6

Florida news ... Page 8

Herald, saw Graham and Shultz express outrage at Hogan's previous claim he had only used anabolic steroids three times, to heal an arm injury in 1984. "Hulk Hogan says if you say your prayers and eat your vitamins, you'll grow up to look like him," Shultz said. "Kids, continue to take your vitamins. But you're never going to grow to be 300 pounds and look like that unless you take steroids." Said Graham: "All (Hogan) should do is tell the truth. It takes synthetic steroids to give you that mass. It's a fact of life."

The WWF has reportedly asked *Inside Edition* if it would do a follow-up to answer to the claims. Most insiders believe the piece would be similar to the one aired last November on *Entertainment Tonight* after a segment claiming fraud in the WWF's anabolic steroid testing program. The ET piece did not focus on the issue, and no questions were asked about claims made on the initial piece. *Inside Edition* producer Sally Bracks claims the WWF was originally going to reply on the Graham-Shultz telecast, but changed its mind. WWF spokesman Steve Planamenta said that is not true.

The WWF is expected to use the background of both Graham and Shultz in an effort to discredit reports of Hogan's alleged steroid use. Graham, who claims he is experiencing avascular necrosis—the disintegration of the body's joints—because of long-term steroid use, has filed an intent to sue against the WWF and Zahorian. Planamenta has previously said Graham is using the claims against Hogan as a means to strengthen his chances in court. Shultz, who was fired from the WWF in 1985, has a more sordid reputation. *Inside Edition* also agreed to film a piece on Shultz at his new job—bounty hunting—for a telecast later this spring. The WWF will likely say Shultz offered to speak about Hogan in exchange for free publicity on a later show.

(Continued on Page 5)

Spotlight on: David Shultz

The last time most wrestling fans saw "Dr. D" David Shultz, he was slapping a television reporter for asking whether wrestling was fake or not. Six years later, Shultz is speaking publicly about a controversial subject he believes is real – anabolic steroid use by Hulk Hogan.

Shultz, who is now a high-profile bounty hunter, was fired from the World Wrestling Federation in January 1985 after slapping 20/20 reporter John Stossel in Madison Square Garden. The event overshadowed Shultz's illustrious career in wrestling, which includes a two-year main-event feud with Hogan in the WWF and American Wrestling Alliance territories, and a long stint in Calgary. Shultz and "Superstar" Billy Graham are now speaking openly about alleged steroid abuse by Hogan, with the duo appearing on numerous talk show and Inside Edition. In part one of a two-part interview, Shultz talks about his dealings with Hogan, steroids, 20/20 and why he decided to speak out.

AM: What has been the reaction you have received thus far from the *Inside Edition* piece?

DS: I've gotten a few threatening phone calls, but that doesn't bother me. I got a call saying something about how they're going to cause a lot of problems for my family, but they were using a voice distorter. I'm going to run into big problems, but I'm ready.

I know on the *Inside Edition* piece, it didn't say anything about what we talked about. I said I gave Hulk Hogan shots (of anabolic) steroids in the triceps, thigh and buttocks, and he supplied me and others with steroids in 1978-79 in Pensacola. (Steroids) were his in to wrestling. Back then, when you broke into pro wrestling, you shut your mouth and didn't say anything. If you did say something, you would have your leg broken and not be able to work. Nobody just walked into the business like they do today. He had something to offer. He was 320 pounds, 6-5. I was 220 pounds. He said you have to get to the gym and do steroids like him. I started looking around, and people were starting to get huge. Back then, there were the pot-gut beer drinkers on top. People like Dusty Rhodes, Rowdy Red Roberts and Dick Murdoch, who had never seen steroids in their life. I had never been in a gym before until Hogan took me. But if that was going to be the trend to keep pace and make my livelihood, I was going to look that way. We lived together, and I took him under my wing. I explained the business to him – what to say, when not to say it – and we became the best of friends. After Pensacola, he went to Atlanta and Memphis, and they beat the shit out of him. He went to the WWF, and they beat him up there under the name Sterling Golden. Then he went to Minneapolis and got his break in Rocky III, and stated making himself a big name. I wrestled all the way through Canada, from Calgary to Nova Scotia, for a few years, and then I went to Minneapolis, and we hooked up again. We stayed in touch between times, and when I got to Minneapolis, I started doing more steroids again. This guy would do 12 ccs of steroids a day for a week. In 1981-82, when he was on Johnny Carson, he weighed about 320 pounds, and couldn't catch his breath. Vince McMahon Jr. sends one of his agent to see him in September or November of 1983 and told Hogan to come over, because they were going

to make him champion, push him to the max and sign him to a five-year contract. Hogan said he wanted me to come with him, because we were main-eventing towns together that Vince was about to take over. Vince said he would make an offer to me between \$200,000-\$250,000 a year. I started working there, and they started building me up to put me together with him. But Hogan said that if I were to beat him (Editor's note: meaning "shoot" on Hogan in the ring, i.e. fight him legitimately), I would be gone. A lot of people were scared of that, because that belt was worth a lot of money to whomever I wanted to drop it to. Hogan got scared and went to see Vince, and said I was going to beat the shit out of him. All this is in a statement from the disposition of Vince McMahon I made (in regards to the 20/20 piece). I was clearly set up on that. Nobody knows the other side of the story.

AM: What is it?

DS: Vince was really upset that night (of the interview), because when Stossel and Hogan went walking around New York City earlier in the day, Stossel called him an asshole. Vince told Stossel you don't ask anybody about whether wrestling is fake, because it's been beat to death. So Stossel, in his deposition, said Vince or someone with the WWF brought him down to do an interview with me. Just before that, Vince said he wanted me to do an interview with this guy, that he wanted me to blast him and stay in character. Stossel said one of the people from the WWF introduced him to me. I didn't know what was going to happen. I thought it was going to be like one of those pie-in-the-face things or that gun show (on TNT). On those skits they filmed of me with my "family," those kids were rented for me. I have a 20-year-old daughter and have been married for 22 years. If I was as big an asshole as everyone thought I was, the marriage wouldn't have lasted that long at all. After it happened, he made the statement he thought wrestling was fake, and I didn't know if it was going to be a thing like the gun show was. I didn't know Stossel from a hole in the wall. He took off running after it (Shultz's slap) happened. According to Stossel's statement, Vince told him I was fired that night. A month later, Vince forces me to sign a contract apologizing to the New York athletic commission and pay \$3,000. I wouldn't

pay, but he did, and said I had to sign the contract because his insurance company asked him to do so. I started to read it, but he told me to stop, and sign it or I was fired. So what was I going to do? I signed it. Before I got signature from him of continuing employment, he fires me less than 18 days later in January of 1985. Then he comes up to me and starts threatening me, saying I wouldn't follow orders. I have it on tape where he said he fired me and there was need no reason to. If he said it had something to do with my body, what does he want? My arms to get bigger or for me to gain 80 pounds? I couldn't see me taking any more steroids than what I was taking. I was drawing money.

AM: What happened next?

DS: I was supposed to go back to work with Vince. He told me to go to Japan in February, go to the Middle East, and I would come back and be on top. I was under the impression I was going back to work. That was covered in my deposition.

AM: What happened with you and Mr. T during that time?

DS: Mr. T was in Los Angeles on a couple of shows I was on. The first happened in September or October of 1984. I was getting out of the ring, and a fan jumped up and threw beer in my face. I pushed him, people pushed him back toward me, I hit him and knocked him down. Mr. T jumps up and says I can't hit him like that. So I ran back into the ring and called him a few names, like telling him to shine my shoes and all that, and, of course, he didn't come into the ring. I went back to the dressing room. Then on February 11 of 1985, Mr. T tries to come back to my dressing room, and I said he was not coming back there. His bodyguards were coming, but I said I'd whip every one of them one at a time. That's when they sent an agent to fire me over the phone. In my contract, it said he can't fire me anyway. But because Vince is a man with that much money, and the lawyers he has on retainer can carry you in court for years and years, if you're not a millionaire, you're screwed. So I started working independent shows, and got a private investigator's license and became a bounty hunter. I'm probably the most sought after bounty hunter in the world. I've brought in 500 people in the last four years. I went as far as Cairo, Egypt to bring people back. And I was successfully, in Cairo, Puerto Rico and Santa Domingo, places where nobody can get people out.

AM: What is it that prompted you to speak about Hogan?

BG: When Hogan went on the *Arsenio Hall Show* and said he only took steroids three times, that really upset my daughter. She asked me why he was going to lie to all these kids who look up to him as a role model. If it upset my daughter that much, imagine all the kids' reactions when they find out about Hogan. He tells them to go buy all his vitamins, and these kids take them for

years and years. What's going to happen when they don't end up looking like him? Is this going to cause some sort of psychological problem? What about a false image, when our role models are liars? Look at Magic Johnson. When advertisers first heard he had AIDS, everybody praised him. Now everybody has shunned him. And he told the truth.

AM: What were your dealings with George Zahorian?

DS: Hogan first introduced me to Zahorian in 1983. I could get steroids or anything I wanted. Vince made sure he was at the matches.

AM: You're on the Federal Express receipt list subpoenaed at his trial as receiving packages from him.

DS: I got steroids and valium from him. I was still using steroids. It's like I told *Inside Edition*. If I had a doctor who would give them to me, I'd take them today. You people say it's bad if you use them. I'm saying it's bad if you abuse them, like Billy did. We're great friends and I love Billy like a brother, but he abused steroids. I never did. I would get them through doctors. Zahorian was doctor. Without steroids, I never would have been able to make it to the WWF. Without steroids, Hogan would never have gotten into the WWF, and never broken into the business. Without steroids, Billy Graham would never have become WWF champion. (Former NFL player and long-time steroid user) Lyle Alzado would have been some garbage collector instead of in the NFL. I think he even said it himself. What does this say? Either you do steroids, or you don't get to the top.

McMahon talked me out of the AWA, and the day I quit, I was supposed to go on the WWF's payroll and never have to worry about another job. Hulk was on top, and I left right after him. After I got set up with Stossel and Vince turned his back, there was nowhere to go. Everybody got to see the thing. It didn't show the true story. It made it look like I got mad and slapped Stossel. I never had a chance to meet with Eddy Mansfield (former wrestler who revealed secrets of the business on the 20/20 show) face to face. 20/20 never gave the story of how Stossel trained with Mansfield and Jim Wilson (another wrestler on the show who was blackballed from wrestling in the late 1970s). Stossel was in the ring with these guys. He knew how to fall. After they showed (the slap) on TV, all he had to do was fall. I figured that when he got up, I didn't slap him that hard. It was an open-handed slap, and that's even legal in wrestling. Nobody knows the whole story behind all this stuff. I'd like to have a match with Mansfield, and I won't tell you what the outcome would be. And you know what? It would draw.

AM: Is there anyway you would return to the ring?

DS: I would to have a match with Mansfield or

Hogan. I would like to have the chance to even up the score of what Mansfield did to me on 20/20. We took one picture together, and he takes it and gives it to them like we're life-long buddies. I didn't even know if he had the belt he posed with in the picture. I think it was mine. The guy was a habitual liar.

I tell the truth, and I can back it up in paperwork. One of the doctor's who checked out Stossel's ear was his brother, a doctor in Boston. Stossel had an ear problem before I even hit him. Nobody knows the whole story. I'm in the process of writing a book and making a movie. They will talk about Hogan and all the diseases he has and all the diseases in wrestling. You're touching the tip of the iceberg when you talk about steroids.

But, what's wrong with steroids? You can find no doctor who says they caused Alzado's brain tumor. Nobody twisted his arm and made him do them. He did it because that was what was required to be on top in the NFL. As far as for me, I have had no bad effects from steroids yet. I hope I never do. I'm not taking them now because I can't get them. If a doctor gave them to me under a prescription, there's nothing wrong with that. My liver, blood pressure and heart are all good. If you abuse them, they're going to kill you. If you take a bottle of aspirin every day for a few weeks, it's not going to take long to kill you, either.

AM: Have any positives come from the 20/20 piece.

DS: I've always had notoriety, and that's the only thing. The show destroyed me. They used me on their 10-year anniversary commercial. I could understand if they use it on the special, but on a commercial showing me slapping him? They used me to publicize their show. They never would let me go back on and tell my side of the story, face to face, to Stossel. I'd love to do that, and then take them on a bounty hunt expedition. That has gained me acclaim. They wrote about me in the *New York Times*, in Japan, on *Hard Copy*, *Crime Watch* and some others. I'm now one of the most sought after bounty hunters in the world. But to get into something like this is hard when people don't want to come near you because they don't want to get hit. The producers that do these specials don't want me around. I have been called up for commercials and turned down when I got there, because I was the guy on 20/20. That show, along with Vince, tried to destroy me. Anyone who wants to know more about me is welcome to call me. I have no problem with anybody. I've never had a beer, and I've never been arrested. I'm as clean a guy as has ever wrestled in the WWF, except for Bob Backlund. The WWF has convicted felons working for it.

But back to Zahorian, Vince's name was on that Federal Express list, too. All these guys are on there, but there are a lot of names not on there. Many of them just went by his office to pick things up. Zahorian demanded

cash or a cashier's check, which is why a lot of guys didn't go through Federal Express. I have cancelled checks from him. I've got canceled checks from Hogan, and one when I bought steroids from him in Minneapolis before he introduced me to Zahorian.

AM: Why do you have all these documents saved up?

DS: I keep everything. I've got every record from when I was in the army. I don't throw anything away. I keep things because you never know when you're going to need them. I kept all my prescriptions, because when you travel around the world, you may need them. I've got canceled checks, pictures of me and Hogan, me and Graham and me and Eddy Mansfield.

AM: How do you feel about the state of Florida's attempt to pass regulation toward pro wrestling?

DS: It has to be regulated. If the WWF is going to do its own steroid test, it's going to be done by their doctors and all the boys are going to be notified 10 days ahead of time. They're going to pick who they want to pass the test. Nobody is overseeing their testing. And not only should there be testing for steroids, but for AIDS as well. Heroin, cocaine ... these guys are going to use all this stuff and have plenty of time to clear it out of their system before the urinate in a bottle. And that's bullshit anyway. I offered *Inside Edition* to bring a doctor to my house and give me a shot of testosterone, and I would pass their test 10 days later. A commission that's run right will come into a town and say, "All right, I want to test you, and you, and you now. And then the commission would watch them piss into a bottle. It's going to eliminate the steroids and drugs.

AM: So, how close did you and Hogan get?

DS: We did everything together. We stayed in hotel rooms together, worked out together, make trips together for years and years. We were inseparable. Linda (Bollea, Hogan's wife) even got mad at how much we were together. When Hulk met her, he was seeing Verne Gagne's daughter. She sold him her condo in Minneapolis.

It changed one night in the WWF. Hulk always wanted to try and beat me, but never had the balls to do it face-to-face. He'd sneak up behind me and grab me. One night, I threw him on the dressing room floor in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., in front of all the boys. I told him I was going to beat his ass on TV one day. Every night, I would have to let him win, but I would tighten up enough on him during the match that he knew I could beat him anytime I got ready to. He's a punk. I grew up in streets Tennessee, with a mix of blacks and whites. It was in the poor part of town, and we had to fight for what we had. The other night, I busted the windows out of a car and threw cap stun bomb into a car to catch someone. He was an Olympic runner, and they all said I would never catch him, but I did.

My wife has seen Hulk take steroids. For a deposition, they asked her if I did. Her response was, "He had the wrestling boots. Don't they all?" Eddy used to take so many damn steroids, and it never helped him. He was taking them all the time. He never said that on 20/20. Kids are under the impression they can get as big as Hogan, which is impossible unless you take steroids. Look at Charles Atlas. In the books, it said he had 17 1/2-inch arms, and he was a fanatic body-builder. He would have been that big as Hogan with steroids. Even if you're a millionaire and work out three times a day. It's not going to happen.

Inside Edition (Continued from Page 1)

An interview with Jessie Shultz, David's 20-year-old daughter, did not air on *Inside Edition*. Jessie said she saw Hogan and Shultz injecting each other with the muscle-enhancing drug, and Hogan would bring steroids into her bedroom eight years ago when he stayed at their house. ABC's 20/20, which is currently working on a story for telecast in early February, will bring more attention to the matter. Graham and Shultz appeared on John Arezzi's *Pro Wrestling Spotlight* radio show in New York on Jan. 5, and made many of the same comments that are enclosed in their interviews in this issue of *Three Count*.

Graham also appeared Jan. 4 on Mike Tenay's *Wrestling Insiders* radio show from Las Vegas, which is syndicated nationally on the Sports and Entertainment Network, and will return to appear with Shultz and *Wrestling Observer Newsletter* editor Dave Meltzer Jan. 11. "Graham really tried to open up a lot more on the radio show, because he and Shultz felt some of the heavy stuff they said on *Inside Edition* was edited down because of time restraints or legal threats," Tenay said. "He kind of went off on a tangent about Shultz and his experiences with Hogan."

The following is a partial transcript of what Graham said on Tenay's show.

"I'm not an expert on drug tests. But I do know in 1987 when they began drug testing for cocaine in the WWF, a lot of people would bring urine samples from other people that were clean on the road with them and switched samples in the restroom. With steroid testing, you can do the same thing. They have products, one called Defend that the gentleman who produces it believes it makes your chances of failing 98 percent unbeatable, that will beat a steroid test, along with diuretics you can take to dilute your urine. So testing can be beat. It's been proven over and over. David Shultz has so much more steroid information on Hulk Hogan than I do that it's not even funny. Here's one quick example. Shultz said, and this was edited out by *Inside*

Edition, Hogan introduced him to steroids in Tennessee, brought them into his home and gave him his first injection of steroids. From that point on, Shultz said he had purchased steroids from Hogan and injected them into his side, his trapezoids and his buttocks as well. He also said Hogan had sold steroids in the Penasacola territory, and he has documents from wrestlers who say they have purchased steroids from Hulk Hogan."

The Jan. 11 issue of *Three Count* will have the WWF's reply to the charges. I am hoping to have received the documentation of Shultz's claim by press time, and will report on those as well, along with the after-shocks of Mushnick's story.

Florida (Continued from Page 8)

Windham (who I believe has been released from prison) vs. The Black Panther (long-time jobber Frankie Rose).

The ICWA (James Manley's independent that promotes from The Sportatorium in Tampa) is promoting regularly on the west coast again, with a Dec. 29 card in Hudson, Fla., a major success, drawing about 1,000 people. Kevin Sullivan and Slater were on the show, as was a match between Paradise and Debbie Malenko.

Late Breaking News...

Herd resigns from WCW

Jim Herd, the executive vice president of World Championship Wrestling, resigned Jan. 8 after a three-year tenure as head of the promotion's day-to-day operations.

Herd, who was rumored to be contemplating the move the past several months, was temporarily replaced by Kip Frey, WCW's legal counsel, according to a WCW source. A complete report, and chronology of Herd's career, will appear in the Jan. 11 edition of *Three Count*.

Speculation is heavy that Lex Luger will be released from his WCW contract in March, and will then jump to the World Body-building Federation to become the first cross-over star between the WBF and the World Wrestling Federation, its sister company. While Luger would have to alter his physique drastically to compete with the WBF's top current stars, he is certainly not laying the groundwork for any future relations with WCW. Luger's contract calls for him to only have to work a certain amount of dates during one year, a figure that was almost reached in early December. Until Luger's contract can be renewed in March, the "Total Package" is not volunteering to wrestle except on television tapings and pay-per-view shows.

Spotlight on: "Superstar" Billy Graham

He was the role model for which many of today's top wrestling stars have based their physiques. Yet Billy Graham is a model example of what long-term anabolic steroid use can do to the human body.

Graham, 48, has suffered avascular necrosis -- the deterioration of the body's joints -- because of long-term steroid abuse. His hip was replaced in 1986, and he had his ankle fused in 1990. Graham is also facing surgery on his other hip and knee as well.

Graham has become one of wrestling's leading advocates against steroids, and is planning to file a lawsuit against World Wrestling Federation owner Vince McMahon and Dr. George T. Zahorian, a Pennsylvania osteopath convicted last July on eight counts of illegal steroid distribution to pro wrestlers. Graham has also filmed a segment for the January 3 Inside Edition show, in which Graham is expected to talk about claims of previous steroid use by WWF champion Hulk Hogan (who denies the charge). In this, the second part of a two-part interview, Graham discusses his interview on Inside Edition, his previous encounters with Hulk Hogan and The Hulkster's appearance on The Arsenio Hall Show last July.

AM: What has been the initial reaction to the *Inside Edition* story?

BG: When I was out Saturday morning locally, I was surprised at all the comments people made about the piece when I was at the drug store, the bank, the market, etc. They said they thought it was great and very courageous. Of course, I thanked them. Everyone I talked to -- family members, friends and the general public -- has been very favorable and complimentary. They praised me for having the courage to speak out.

AM: Did you get any negative reaction?

BG: None. It was all positive. All the people who work out in gyms have a little bit on the ball health-wise and are knew Hulk was lying in the first place. Most were very upset at that. Oddly enough, everyone says the guy deserves what he gets.

AM: What did you think of the *Inside Edition* piece?

BG: I thought it was a bit short in length, but was very precise and to the point. The editing really made Terry (Bollea, Hogan's real name) look like the heel, with the promos they used. It's amazing how editing can sway and convince someone on something. I thought it was well put together, strong and hard-hitting. It was brief, but the point wasn't missed. I would have liked to have seen some of the other things that were edited out of the story.

AM: Like what?

BG: *Inside Edition* was here in my house for three hours, and in David Shultz's house for three hours. I would have liked to have seen Shultz's daughter's reaction left in, but I guess they felt they weren't comfortable with her testimony in the piece for some reason. Of course, a lot of things Shultz said were left out, like about him personally injecting Hulk hundreds of times, literally, with anabolic steroids, and also Hulk selling and distributing steroids in the Pensacola territory. That stuff won't be left out of Phil Mushnick's piece.

AM: How did you meet Shultz?

BG: I first met him in Minneapolis in 1982, and we just became immediate friends. We made quite a few

shots (i.e. wrestling dates) together, and confided in each other. We did some independent work in 1985 around Providence. Ever since we first came into contact with each other, we have shared a mutual admiration.

AM: Did you keep in touch with him through the years?

BG: Yes, we did. There was a bit of a time lapse, but it's always been pretty decent. When all the steroid stuff came out and I called him, I didn't realize he was following the Zahorian trial so closely (Editor's note: Shultz received four Federal Express packages from Zahorian between 1987-89 totalling seven pounds). That whole thing kind of sparked our friendship anew.

AM: Shultz doesn't appear to have any motive for speaking on this subject. Why is he going out on a limb like this?

BG: I believe it's for the same reason I am -- the absurdity of Terry Bollea's statements on the *Arsenio Hall Show*. Shultz was watching it with his wife and daughter, and his daughter's first statement was, "Why is this man lying the way he is?" It was the absurdity and grossness of the lie. Here are all of us, who have taken steroids, taken the heat and have been open about it. Here's the biggest name wrestling has ever seen, and he is blatantly lying about it. It was the insult of the whole thing and, especially, to lie to kids so blatantly with total disregard for the children that worship and adore him so much.

AM: Did the *Arsenio* show push you over the edge?

BG: It pushed both of us (Shultz and Graham) over the edge. Shultz had a disliking of Terry prior to the show, because he perceived Hulk to have an arrogant attitude that was only getting worse in the past couple of years. When the *Arsenio* show came on, it was absolutely the final breaking point. That sparked the fury in everyone, from friends of mine in the gym to other wrestlers. It was so blatant and showed such a disregard for society. It was also annoying knowing that lie originated in Vince McMahon's office. Here the WWF is with its "family entertainment" logo, and it is showing a total disregard for the family ethics taught to children.

AM: Hogan had some disparaging remarks toward you on the show. How much of an influence did that make in your decision to go public with your story?

BG: Oddly enough, when he mentioned me as a user and abuser of steroids, and Bruno a hypocrite, that was upsetting. But I was a steroid user and did abuse them, and he wasn't telling an untruth. So I absorbed that. That actual part of the quote did not bother me. But when Arsenio asked him about Billy Graham and who is he, Hulk said, "He was popular in the 1970s, and I was a fan of his and way ..." and he slumped off. He didn't even recognize the fact I was WWF champion and an idol and mentor of his. That hurt me even worse. But that was nothing of the magnitude of his flat denial of the usage of steroids and his use solely for the therapeutic repair of a biceps tear. There's no history of the injury, no documentation of it or no absence from the ring because of it, unlike Sid Justice and his tear.

AM: Could you please talk about when you first met Hogan and your dealings with him?

BG: I first saw him in 1976 in Tampa, but really in 1977 was when he, among a few others, approached me about how to try and get in the wrestling business. He complained he was being boycotted and not allowed to break in. He was a regular at the Tampa Armory.

AM: How do you remember him so far back?

BG: He was so tall and his head was so big, he literally peered over everybody else's head. I could see the anxiousness on his face when I would strike a pose and do a double biceps. I tried to counsel him. I told him to take his time and perseverance would pay off. We started out as acquaintances. He would ask me what types of steroids I was taking, like brands and combinations, and he became very inquisitive with his inquiries into my steroid activity. I wouldn't tell him, though. In 1982 when we saw each other again, he was enormous. He told me he took a shot of steroids every day with a fellow wrestler for a year until they learned how to cycle. These were heavy injections, and he would laugh about it.

AM: Do you have any proof Hogan is taking steroids now?

BG: Only what I hear through the grapevine. But I tell you what. As much as he's taken, he's in for some serious health problems down the road. Shultz said that when he was in Tennessee and Pensacola (with Hogan), he would give him three to four shots a week with a three cc syringe fully loaded with heavy dosages. And he had been taking that for a year. My avascular necrosis didn't show up until 1985. I'm 48 now, so that puts me back to being 44 when I first started having the signs. Hulk is 38 now, so he might have another five years before, and God forbid it happens, a horrible thing like that would show.

AM: How close were you two?

BG: We were friends. I gave him advice, and counseled him on who to sign with. He had a choice between working in the Atlanta office with Jim Barnett, or going north to sign with Vince McMahon Sr. I told him to go with Vince Sr., because in New York you make more money and it was the bigger operation. I remember one incident on a private charter from Minneapolis to Green Bay with Shultz, Ken Patera, Mr. Saito, Hulk, myself and maybe another person. Hulk was extending me the warning of not starting on cocaine. Early on, I warned him not to start taking steroids in Florida. Obviously, I was not aware of the health problems long-term steroid use brought me. He returned the advice to me on the airplane trip by telling me not to use cocaine, because you are never truly able to get off it. I never had any desire to anyway, so I heeded his warning. We did confide in each other. In 1987 in Winnipeg, we were talking about dosages. Hulk said he wasn't taking the mega-dosages any longer, and was down to little more than a maintenance level. But for him, that could be a cycle for someone else. For one reason, he had received all this muscle mass from years of use, and you don't need large dosages to stay on top and maintain your size. He also had planned on eventually starting a family, so he wanted to cut down.

AM: So the Arsenio show was the straw that broke the camel's back?

BG: I've been literally "wrestling" with this idea of speaking out about Hulk ever since I had my ankle operated on in 1990. I've been quiet for two years. I haven't named names and I've kept things very confidential. With his denial on the Arsenio Show and him talking about me kind of shifted the heat over to me and struck a cord. When I saw the blatant, obviously preconceived lies that he and McMahon went over together and how pathetically unrealistic and untrue the comments were about Terry's therapeutic use of steroids for a torn biceps in 1983, I was totally appalled. It wrenched my stomach. My wife and I talked it over, and we felt it was time to make a stand and let the country know the truth. I find it appalling he could lie to the children and youth of this country. Lyle Alzado (former NFL star who is now suffering health problems because of steroids) got away with denial because he was lying to adults. Adults were his fans. With Hogan, you're dealing with children. You cannot lie about drugs to children. Bottom line. You can't deceive them. Steroids are addictive drugs. I just decided to give a lot of thought to whether I should speak out on it. I asked my attorney if it was good or bad for my lawsuit. The attorney said it was bad. I've had a gag order since summer. I just put it aside to talk from what's in my heart. I'm going as far as saying the public should absolutely boycott any products, video tapes or live shows held or made by the WWF until Hulk Hogan

(Continued on Page 10)

Florida

One of the biggest stories of the year thus far emanated from the World Wrestling Federation's Jan. 6 show at the Miami Arena, as Hulk Hogan handed Ric Flair his first pinfall loss since entering the WWF in September. The match lasted for 10 minutes and saw Hogan gain the pinfall after the customary boot to the face and leg drop. In their previous matches, Hogan had won almost all of them by countout or disqualification.

Even with Flair almost assured of capturing the WWF title Jan. 19 at the Royal Rumble and no return match between the two scheduled for Miami (Jake Roberts vs. Randy Savage in a cage is the main event of the WWF's March 15 Miami Arena show), the finish of the Miami match makes little sense on paper, especially when Hogan-Flair is the likely main event of Wrestlemania VIII. I figure the match result was changed to keep Hogan "strong" in the face of the growing steroid allegations. By the way, that March 15 show in Miami starts at 2 p.m.

Other results from the Miami card, which drew about 6,000 fans (or 1,000-1,500 more than normal for a WWF show): Marty Jannetty d. Brooklyn Brawler; Texas Tornado d. Hercules; The New Foundation d. The Beverly Brothers; Irwin R. Shyster d. The Big Boss Man; Bret Hart d. The Mountie; Roddy Piper (who was not announced as appearing prior to bell time) d. Skinner.

The proposed bill to regulate pro wrestling in Florida will be discussed in late January at a Committee on Regulated Industries meeting in Tallahassee. Janet Clark, the legislative analyst who originally researched the proposal, said at least an hour will be given to discussing the bill. If approved, the bill gets shipped to other parts of the state's legislature for honing, back to the Committee and to the floor of the House of Representatives. The bill will likely be discussed Jan. 21 or Jan. 28.

The International Wrestling Federation is still afloat, even though its scheduled television tapings Dec. 27-28 at Universal Studios in Orlando were postponed. Chris Qualmann, the legal counsel of IWF owner Eddy Mansfield, said the group is negotiating with a "big-money backer," and is hoping to tape by the end of the month. I will be in attendance at their Jan. 10 show in Winter Haven (headlined by Blackjack Mulligan and The Long Riders vs. The Hart Breakers and "Possessor" Ned Brady). Dick Slater is working with this company on an availability basis, as he is currently working in Puerto Rico on a regular basis.

The "big" news from the west coast of Florida is the announcement of a World Legends of Wrestling show at 8 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Manatee County Civic

Center in Palmetto, Fla. The show is being promoted by Diamond Jack, who played a seven-foot circus performer in *Pee Wee's Big Top Adventure* (and as one source joked to me, not the one that took place in nearby Sarasota) and legendary referee Dick Whorlie. The recently-added main event has Greg Valentine vs. The Honky Tonk Man. On the undercard, Paul Orndorff vs. Kimala, The Killer Bees (Brian Blair and Jim Brunzell) vs. The Terminators, The Junkyard Dog vs. The Motor City Madman; Koko B. Ware vs. "Iron" Mike Sharpe; Nicolai Volkoff vs. Brady "Firecat" Boone (sort of gives away Boone's identity when he goes under the hood, doesn't it) and "Mr. Fantastic" Tommy Rogers vs. "Bad Boy" Barry Horowitz. Not a bad line-up, but the ticket prices kill its chance of success with casual fans. All reserve ringside seats include hot ordervous, an autograph session and private photo session with "your favorite wrestlers." Reserved ringside tickets are \$50, \$25 and \$20, and reserved grandstand are \$15. General admission is \$8, and childrens and senior citizen tickets are lower. Herb Abrams of the Universal Wrestling Federation attempted to charge prices on a similar scale last June for his Beach Brawl pay-per-view, and drew less than 100 fans. Plus, Suncoast Pro Wrestling runs shows at the building every month, and almost all are above-average in quality.

Speaking of Suncoast, the group held a show Dec. 20 at Manatee before 150 fans. This was a non-television taping, as Suncoast, which usually tapes its monthly shows at the building, has shows produced through March. Results were: Henry Raines (the promotion's owner) d. Bobby Rodgers (you don't think the owner is going to do a job, do you? I heard Rodgers — who is not the grandson of the legendary "Nature Boy" Buddy Rodgers — took good bumps); Poison Ivy d. Kino McKenzie; Ion Weston d. Charlie Fields; Jim "The Animal" Cooper d. The Spartan, and Dean Malenko and Jumbo Barreta d. Rico Federico and The Masked Superstar (Bob Cook) in the main event. Suncoast's Jan. 24 show at Manatee is loaded (for this group) with Raines vs. Bobby Blaze; Rick Ryder vs. Rodgers; Poison Ivy vs. The Giant Outlaw (who is the boy's junior varsity basketball coach at Southeastern High School); Vern Henderson-Gator Gillmore vs. Jerry Flynn-Weston for the Suncoast tag-team title; Federico vs. Barreta for the Florida title and Dean Malenko vs. The Superstar for the Southern title. Suncoast ladies champion Penelope Paradise will manage Federico and Superstar.

Promoter Paul Spiegel has two shows upcoming in Tampa. On Feb. 1 at the Exposure Country and Western Club. Top matches are Malenko-Barreta vs. Cooper-Paul Sampson, Federico vs. Rogers; Henderson vs. The Viper and Paradise vs. A.J. Watson. January 19 at American Legion Post 139 is headlined by Kendall

Letters

Dear Alex,

I would like you and the people who read your newsletter to know about a problem that occurred recently. On October 28, I placed a large order for Tri-State wrestling tapes which were listed in a flyer sent to me by Squared Circle. As of Dec. 20, I have not received these tapes. My check was cashed quickly on Oct. 31. Calls to Joel Goodhart (Tri-State and Squared Circle owner) came back with lies about his now knowing if the tapes were sent out or not. Anyone who is thinking about placing an order should be aware of this problem I am having. I doubt you will receive your order. I have also forwarded a letter to WIP radio, which carries his wrestling radio show.

— Gary Howerter, Emmaus, Pa.

Dear Alex,

In a recent edition, someone asked you about the former ban of children 14-under from matches in New York. The N.Y. State athletic commission, because of riots at Madison Square Garden, put the rule in effect. Dick the Bruiser was banned, as well as The Original Sheik.

— Alan Cookson, San Francisco

Dear Alex,

Are WWF commentators at the arena during television tapings, or do they do it before a segment airs weekly? Why is the WWF having two pay-per-view shows so close to each other (Summer Slam '91 was in Madison Square Garden; The Royal Rumble is in Albany). When is the WWF going to hold a television taping in the South Florida area? You put question marks after the name Hurricane in my match results from the WWF show Nov. 24 at the Miami Arena. I was wondering who that was, as I was just as confused as you were. Also, the WWF announced Randy Savage was not there, but did not have signs posted in the building.

— Sean Samuels, Lighthouse Point, Fla.

AM: WWF commentary is done at Titan Towers in Connecticut, where the television shows are produced. I'm sure the WWF tries to get all the commentary done in one day, but their format allows them to change their product should a correction need to be made. Of course, when an angle is going to be run, they have the commentators do live commentary for that particular match.

About the Rumble, the Albany arena in which the show is being held is owned by Spectacorp, which also books talent for a bunch of other facilities around the country. Spectacorp booked the WWF almost exclusively until last May, when WCW threatened a lawsuit if

it could not book the same Spectacorp buildings the WWF was running. In the long run, it didn't matter that WCW got into Spectacorp's arenas (which are generally first-rate), because its live shows hardly drew any fans. I understand the WWF booked the show in Albany as a sign of good faith toward Spectacorp. I believe if the WWF had its way, it would have filmed the Rumble from Florida, as the group likes to give its employees a mini-working vacation. The WWF did television tapings in Central Florida recently (Daytona Beach Jan. 7 and Ft. Myers Jan. 8), but I figure South Florida will likely be the site of a WWF pay-per-view show later this year. The Hurricane you referred to was Hurricane Walker, an independent wrestler from Tampa.

Advertisements

Bill Steffen of Athletics/Greensboro College, 815 W. Market Street, Greensboro, N.C. 27401-1875 is interested in any paraphernalia on the Honky Tonk Man.

Jeff Mullins of P.O. Box 36189, San Jose, Calif. 95158, publishes the Pro Wrestling Sushi newsletter on a monthly basis. Cost is \$1.50 an issue, \$2.50 for those overseas.

Gary Langevin of 124 Maple Street, Newport, VT 05855-1418 publishes On The Mat on a bi-monthly basis. Cost is \$2 an issue.

Sheldon Goldberg of P.O. Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 publishes Mat Marketplace — the place to find any wrestling paraphernalia or video tape you're looking for. A \$12 subscription brings six 10-page issues and free classified advertising in the sheet.

Desire any wrestling memorabilia? Interested in video tape of old matches or those from other parts of the country or world? Advertise here for free for subscribers only at P.O. Box 12795, Gainesville, Fla. 32604-0795. I'm also looking for results and/or analysis of matches from other arts of the country. Please send them to the above address.

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Graham (Continued from Page 7)

makes a public apology about lying to this country. I think it's of that magnitude. If I had children who were 8-10 years old, and realized this man had lied to them while taking drugs, I would be appalled. That's how strong my stance is.

AM: Have you spoken with Bruno Sammartino since the piece?

BG: Briefly. He gave me a call, and he was thrilled. He said I had accomplished more in one seven-minute piece than he did in the last two years campaigning in newspaper articles. He said it was definitely the beginning of a crusade, and gives him more impetus, because he received three or four phone calls from radio shows to follow up on the piece.

AM: Bruno told me he was aware of your steroid use in the 1970s when you feuded with him. Did he ever tell you to lay off the drug?

BG: It was never discussed. It just wasn't. It wasn't an issue. He didn't seem to be bothered with it one way or another.

AM: What do you think turned him on to his anti-steroid campaign?

BG: His displeasure with Vince over the years and the way he abused the business and exposed it. Bruno's ethics in the wrestling business soured to such a point ... and he's always had a disdain for Hulk. It originated, Bruno said, when they first met and Hulk totally ignored Bruno in the locker room. I guess he didn't show the courtesy of regarding Bruno as an equal, let alone a peer, which was amazing. From day one.

AM: What's next for you?

BG: I'm sending out a copy of the video tape, a Xerox package and the points I want to cover to Phil Donahue, Oprah Winfrey, Geraldo Rivera, Larry King and Maury Povich. I am suggesting they follow up the Inside Edition piece on one of their shows. Who ever would like me can have me.

Editor's notes: The next issue goes to press Jan. 12, and will contain more news on Herd's resignation, the continuing Hogan steroid allegations, the second part of the David Shultz interview, results from the WWF's television tapings in Florida and much more. Life for me (and the newsletter) will be much better with my current class schedule. Issues will be mailed out every Sunday from this point forward. We are also shrinking to an eight-page format permanently as well (for new readers, the size of each issue has fluctuated between 6-10 pages). I survived Bourbon Street for one week on my sojourn to New Orleans. Now lets see if I can do the hard part -- maintain a steady printing schedule, pass my college classes and balance three jobs. See y'all in four days!!!

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